

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 27 OCT 51

SUBJECT Economic and Political Information
from the Gugutka-Bregovets Area

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1. The following quotas, rations, and prices are currently in force in the area between the villages of Gugutka (RG 4315), and Bregovets (RG 3443):

- a. The government quota per goat and per sheep is 49 kilograms of milk per annum. The milk can be substituted by butter at the rate of 1.5 kilogram per animal. This quota is set on the total number of animals owned by the farmers, regardless of whether all animals are milk-producing. If the farmer is able to produce the designated quota, he is permitted to dispose of excess quantities on the free market.
- b. The quota per cow is 2.5 kilograms of butter per annum.
- c. Sugar is rationed at the rate of half a kilogram per individual per month, but the rations are seldom available.
- d. The government pays the following prices for farmers' products:

Wheat - 22 leva per kilogram (the black market price is 120 leva per kilogram).

Sheep's milk - 50 leva per kilogram.

Cotton - 70 leva per kilogram.

Wool - 300 leva per kilogram.

- e. The farmers are required to pay the following prices for articles of food and clothing essential to them:

Shoes - 5,000 leva per pair.

Suit of clothes - 20,000 leva.

Flour - 80 leva per kilogram.

2. Collective farms in the specified area are being established only under government pressure. In the village of Malevo (RG 2166), with approximately 500 individual farmers, only 45 had joined the collective farm in 1950. In order to crush the farmers' resistance to the collectives the authorities imposed heavy quotas on cotton, which is the chief product of the area. When the farmers were unable to produce the required quantities, they were faced with the alternative of either paying excessive fines, or joining the collective farm.

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3. Members of the collective farms are allowed 300 kilograms of wheat per person per annum for sustenance, regardless of the output of the farm. The collective farms maintain an old age fund which provides up to 60 kilograms of wheat per pensioner. The distribution of labor at the collective farms is unfair; members of the Communist Party are not required to work as hard as others. In consequence, the output of collective farms is inferior in quality and quantity to that of individual farmers.
4. The attitude of the authorities toward church services in the area is distinctly intolerant. In the village of Strandjevo (sic) the village council has prohibited church services, even on Sunday.
5. The authorities are endeavoring to create a war psychosis in the entire area. The population is constantly forced to attend public meetings at which Communist Party leaders discourse on the likelihood of imminent attacks by Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia, and the "capitalist" states. This policy is further emphasized by the maintenance of a state of constant alert, by systematic training of select squads, and by the construction of military fortifications.
6. The economic circumstances of the people in this area are very poor. The farmers are disheartened and at least 80 percent of them are against the present regime. However, the drastic methods of the authorities have frightened the residents; there is no evidence of organized resistance anywhere, in spite of the fact that the people are psychologically prepared for it. The morale of the farmers is extremely low and, this is reflected in the ranks of the armed forces. Informants believe that in the event of open hostilities the Bulgarian Army will not be capable of stiff resistance, and may be prepared to surrender readily, particularly if the invading forces are other than the armies of their immediate neighbors.

Comments: Locations are given in the Mediterranean Zone Grid.

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